

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:**

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

**SUBMITTED TO:**

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

**Report Date:** 24 March 2015

**Reason for Submission:** ("X" means purpose of the report)

| <b>Casualty Identification:</b> |   | <b>Burial Information:</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Confirmed Identity              | X | Burial Location Identified | X |
| Most Probable Identity          |   | Grave Stone Correction     | X |
| Questionable Identity           |   | Grave Records Correction   | X |
| Incorrect Identity              |   | Request for CWGC Details   |   |
| Other                           |   | Other                      |   |

**Supporting Documents:** (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

| <b>Casualty Identification:</b> |                      | <b>Burial Information:</b>  |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Dedman, Thomas George           | i                    | Cemetery Name               | <a href="#">link</a> |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Battalion      | i                    | Location                    | i                    |
| Lance Corporal #105822          | i                    | Plot, Row, Grave            | i                    |
| Date of Death 09/08/1918        | <a href="#">link</a> | Date of Burial / Exhumation | i                    |
| Attestation Papers              | <a href="#">link</a> | Cemetery Schematic          | <a href="#">link</a> |
| Service Record                  | <a href="#">link</a> | Graves Registration Report  | 5                    |
| Circumstance of Death           | 1                    | Concentration of Grave      |                      |
| CEF Canada Register             | 2                    | Headstone Register          |                      |
| War Diary Extract(s)            |                      | Casualty Spreadsheet        |                      |
| Area Map(s)                     |                      | Trench Map Exhumation       |                      |
| Trench Map(s)                   | 3                    | Grave Stone Photograph      |                      |
| Possible Candidates List        | 4                    | Grave Stone Inscription     |                      |
| Excluded Candidates List        |                      | Memorial Inscription/Photo  |                      |
| Other                           |                      | Reporting and Review        | 6                    |

**Summary of Findings:**

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 1 Row A Grave 22 lists a Lance Corporal of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadians who was killed in action in August 1918.

There is only one (1) unknown Lance Corporal of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion listed for August 1918 on the Vimy Memorial. On this basis alone it is a simple conclusion that the grave contains the remains of Lance Corporal Thomas George Dedman.

**Details of Findings: (if required)**

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 1 Row A Grave 22 are those of Lance Corporal Thomas George Dedman of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The "Circumstance of Death" file for Lance Corporal Dedman reports that he was killed in action during the attack on Rosieres at approximately 2 pm on August 9, 1918. The report states that he was buried at the coordinates shown on the Trench Map at Harbonieres, Sheet 62D X19 c5.5 (Attachment #1).
2. The "CEF Commonwealth War Graves Register" shows that the battlefield grave of Lance Corporal Dedman was not found during the battlefield clearings and thus his name is listed on the Vimy Memorial (Attachment #2). The register specifies that his unconfirmed burial report was that he was at X19 C5.5 between Guillacourt and Rosieres beside the Railway at W24 c3.7 (Attachment #2).
3. The Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension was constructed by Canadians after they took the village on Friday August 9, 1918, the date of Lance Corporal Dedman's death. The records are clear that he was in precisely the right location and at the right time, to be recorded as the remains that were placed in Plot 1 Row A Grave 22 (Attachment #3).
4. The records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission show that there are nine (9) missing Lance Corporals of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion listed on the Vimy Memorial. Of these four (4) were killed in action in 1916; four (4) in 1917 and only one (1) in 1918. There are no other possible candidates for the remains in this grave site (Attachment #4).
5. The "Graves Registration Report Form" for that section of the Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension shows that Plot 1 Row C Grave 22 is marked for an UNKNOWN L/Cpl. of the 29/Bn. Canadians. We now know that person to be Lance Corporal Dedman (Attachment #5).

**Action Required:**

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #6).

The evidence from this investigation is conclusive that Plot 1 Row A Grave 22 of the Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension contains the remains of Lance Corporal Thomas George Dedman. The headstone and corresponding records should be modified to read "L./Cpl. T. G. Dedman, 29<sup>th</sup> Bn. Canadian Inf. August 9, 1918".

# ATTACHMENT #1

|   |                          |   |                             |
|---|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. NO.  | 2. RANK OR RATING        | 3. SURNAME  | 4. CHRISTIAN NAMES          |
| 105822  | Lance Corporal           | DEDMAN  | Thomas George               |
| 5. UNIT OR SHIP   | 6. DATE OF CASUALTY      | 7. H.Q. FILE NO.                                  | 8. RELIGION                 |
| 29th Battalion  | 9-8-18                   | 649-D-16125                                       | Church of England           |
| 9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY  |                          | 10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN |                             |
| <p>"Killed in Action"</p> <p>During the attack on Rosieres, and when one mile West of the town, about 2 P.M. on August 9th 1918, he was killed by an enemy shell.</p> |                          |   |                             |
| 11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY  |                          |   |                             |
| NOTE:—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.   |                          |   |                             |
| 12. CEMETERY  | 13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY | 14. GRAVE LOCATION                                | 15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE |
|   |                          | Grave.....<br>Plot.....<br>Row.....               |                             |
| 16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN   | 17. EXPOSURE NO.         | 18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO  |                             |
|   |                          |   |                             |
| 19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.   |                          |   |                             |

20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

Harbonieres, Sheet 62d.X.19.o.5.5.

21. REMARKS.

# ATTACHMENT #2

Form E. 13  
1932 10m 19/9/18 D 425

11828

Reg. No. 105822. Rank *Lt. Col.* Name DEDMAN, T.G.  
(Author D.S. 644. D - 16124 fdis)

File No. R.L.  
25.D. 3041.

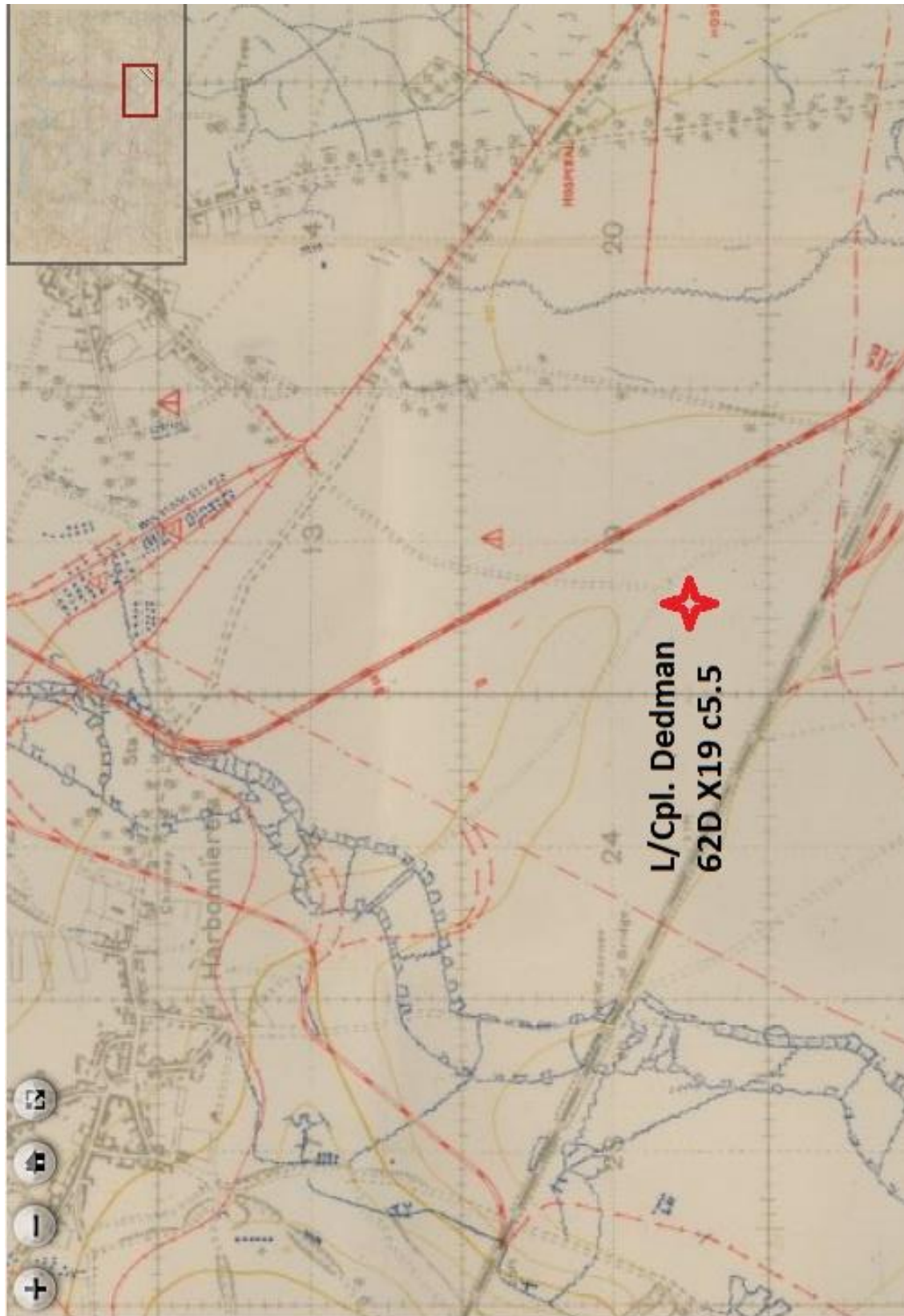
Unit B.C. Rgt. (29)  
Canadian Printing & Stationery Services, London

| Date of Casualty    | Nature and Place of Casualty | Next-of-Kin  |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 9-8-18.             | KILLED IN ACTION             | Mrs J. Dedman.<br>9, Kellsbrook Rd<br>Sheatham.<br>London S. |
| Published on D.C.L. |                              |  |
| No. A-331.          |                              |  |
| Date 30-9-18.       |                              |  |



| Unconfirmed Burial Report   | Grave No.          | Authority                           | Report of Circumstances of Casualty  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--|--------------------|-------------|---------------|------|------|
| <i>Harbonnieres. X19. C 55.</i><br><i>between Gillecourt &amp; Rosieres beside</i><br><i>Railway approx. W.24. C 3.7.</i><br><b>VIMY</b><br><b>MEMORIAL</b> |                    | BR/9006<br><i>or unit</i><br>(copy) | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Received from Unit</th> <th>Forwarded</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Date 16/11/18.</td> <td>Ottawa 25-11-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Next-of-Kin 25-11-</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Written For</th> <th>A.A.G. Writte</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Date</td> </tr> </table> | Received from Unit | Forwarded   | Date 16/11/18. | Ottawa 25-11- |  | Next-of-Kin 25-11- | Written For | A.A.G. Writte | Date | Date |
| Received from Unit  | Forwarded          |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Date 16/11/18.  | Ottawa 25-11-      |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
|   | Next-of-Kin 25-11- |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Written For   | A.A.G. Writte      |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Date  | Date               |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Confirmed Burial Report   | Grave No.          | Authority                           | Burial Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
|   |                    |                                     | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Ottawa</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Next-of-Kin</td> </tr> </table>   | Ottawa             | Next-of-Kin |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Ottawa  |                    |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Next-of-Kin   |                    |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Revised Burial Report   | Grave No.          | Authority                           | Revised Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin   |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
|   |                    |                                     | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Ottawa</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Next-of-Kin</td> </tr> </table>   | Ottawa             | Next-of-Kin |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Ottawa  |                    |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |
| Next-of-Kin   |                    |                                     |  |                    |             |                |               |  |                    |             |               |      |      |



## ATTACHMENT #3



## ATTACHMENT #4

| Name                          | Rank           | Service Number | Date of Death | Age | Regiment / Service | Service Country | Grave / Memorial Reference | Cemetery / Memorial Name | Docs.   |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| DYER, LOUIS IRVING            | Lance Corporal | 75163          | 26/09/1916    | 30  | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |    |
| MILLACHIP, JOHN SEPTIMUS      | Lance Corporal | 75173          | 26/09/1916    |     | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |    |
| STRONACH, J                   | Lance Corporal | 75923          | 24/09/1916    |     | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |    |
| ROBERTSON, RONALD HUGH WILSON | Lance Corporal | 463362         | 21/08/1917    |     | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |    |
| DEDMAN, THOMAS GEORGE         | Lance Corporal | 105822         | 09/08/1918    | 32  | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |    |
| FUNNELL, EDWIN JAMES          | Lance Corporal | 645480         | 21/08/1917    |     | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |    |
| HOLMWOOD, FRANK CECIL         | Lance Corporal | 408464         | 16/09/1916    | 20  | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |    |
| MATHESON, HUGH                | Lance Corporal | 116595         | 21/08/1917    | 23  | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |  |
| THOMPSON, JAMES GEORGE        | Lance Corporal | 180144         | 21/08/1917    | 40  | Canadian Infantry  | Canadian        |                            | VIMY MEMORIAL            |  |



# ATTACHMENT #5

Army Form W. 3372.

## GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

2eme Region. Serial No. 397. REPORT No. 6. SCHEDULE No. 2c.

PLACE OF BURIAL ROSIERES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION.  
Commune Rosieres-en-Santerre

Map Reference 66E. F.2.c.3.8. Map Scale. 1/40,000.

The following are buried here:— PLOT 1.

| Regiment         | No.     | Name              | Rank and Initials          | Date of Death | Cross Erected or G. R. U'd. | Plot, Row and Grave     |
|------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 28/Bn. Canadians | 407540  | STODDART          | Pte. J.                    | 13.8.18.      | ✓                           | ROW. GRAVE.<br>A. 13. ✓ |
| 31/ do           | 811814  | MURRAY            | Pte. E. F.                 | "             | ✓                           | A. 14. ✓                |
| 28/ do           | 781900  | X CHRISTMAS (MIA) | Pte. C. H. (auth. Can Reg) | 9-8-18        | ✓                           | A. 15. ✓                |
| 31/ do           | 654768  | STEVENS           | Pte. L. G.                 | 13-8-18       | ✓                           | A. 16. ✓                |
| 28/Bn. Canadians | 320139  | PELLO             | Pte. O.                    | 13.8.18.      | ✓                           | A. 17. ✓                |
| 31/ do           | 3205911 | BRAMWELL          | Pte. W.                    | "             | ✓                           | A. 18. ✓                |
| 28/ do           | 268075  | WATT              | Pte. V. D.                 | "             | ✓                           | A. 19. ✓                |
| 29/ do           | 687344  | MONTGOMERY        | Pte. J. A.                 | "             | ✓                           | A. 20. ✓                |
| 28/ do           |         | UNKNOWN PRIVATE   |                            | "             | ✓                           | A. 21. ✓                |
| do               |         | UNKNOWN L/Cpl.    |                            | "             | ✓                           | A. 22. ✓                |
| do               |         | UNKNOWN PRIVATE   |                            | "             | ✓                           | A. 23. ✓                |
| 31/Bn. Canadians | 3131375 | HISFERNAN         | Pte. E. J. B.              | "             | ✓                           | A. 24. ✓                |
| 22/Bn. Canadians | 672560  | COTE              | Pte. J. E.                 | 13.8.18       | ✓                           | A. 25. ✓                |

ENTERED. *Alb 29/1/20*  
SLIPS CHECKED. *21.2.21*

(6 31 5) W1163-P133 45,000- 10/17 HWV(P117) Forms W3372/2  
144-1998 70,000 4/18

## **ATTACHMENT #6**

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

| <b>Procedure:</b>  | <b>Guideline Criteria for Submission:</b>   |
|--|---|
| All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly. | Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later. |

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Affiliation</b>                                   | <b>E-mail</b>  | <b>Contribution</b> |
|------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Richard Laughton | Private Researcher<br>LMC Great War Research Company | <a href="mailto:rlaughton@laughton.ca">rlaughton@laughton.ca</a> | Report Author       |